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*U. S. Congress. Senate. Committee on foreign relations.*

## PROTESTS AGAINST ISLE OF PINES TREATY.

MARCH 12, 1906.—Presented by Mr. Penrose, and ordered to lie on the table and to be printed in confidence for the use of the Senate, in connection with the Isle of Pines treaty (Ex. J, 58th, 2d).

AN AMERICAN PROTEST—CAPTAIN PEARCY GIVES HIS REASONS FOR ASKING THAT THE ISLE OF PINES TREATY BE DEFEATED AT ONCE.

The letter published below will give some idea to American citizens, as well as to members of Congress, regarding the methods of interpretation and administration of the old Cuban-Spanish laws in the Isle of Pines, with respect to the American property owners there. Cuban laws seem especially designed for the encouragement and protection of the Cuban office-holding grafter, big and little. The letter was received here by Capt. J. L. Percy, of Washington, D. C., from his brother, Capt. S. H. Percy, an American property owner in the Isle of Pines and the proprietor of the Percy line of boats from Mobile to the Isle of Pines. The letter speaks for itself:

NUEVA GERONA, ISLE OF PINES.

February 21, 1906.

JOSEPH L. PEARCY, *Washington, D. C.*

DEAR JOE: I received your letter by last mail telling me about Senator Morgan's report and his interview with Minister Quesada. It gives us considerable encouragement. I also received the book of the official reports (majority and minority) of the committee, which is being passed around and devoured by the people, but you don't know what a disappointment it is when we see that our fate is liable to be delayed and run over to another session of Congress. It looked at first as though we were going to have a great many people come here this winter, but we get news from every quarter that they will not come till Congress acts, and if they continue to let the Cubans govern us much longer there will be a general stampede of settlers here trying to sell out at any price. The majority report recommending the ratification of the treaty killed the sale of land, and for the first time since the Americans bought (land) in the island, started the price downward and made things dull. The people are down in the mouth and some who have been improving their little homes and were apparently as happy as they could be, having not a cent elsewhere, are anxious to sell for enough to get back to the States; and if they do ratify the treaty, it will break every small planter on the island. As for me, I could not continue to live here. I have been cautioned by two responsible parties (one is cashier of a Cuban bank and the other a Cuban merchant) that my life was in imminent danger, but I have paid no attention to it, and every possible obstacle and disadvantage have been thrown in my way in running our boat from Mobile here; so much so that with the confiscations, damages, etc., I have lost several thousands of dollars in cash out of my own pocket since I began to run it. They are determined that we shall patronize Habana. I am now thinking seriously of closing out the business, and sacrificing every security I can raise to pay off the losses, as it is impossible for me to hold out any longer. This has so humiliated and harassed me for the last three or four months that I have not been able to be of any assistance in our cause. In fact, it has so cramped me for funds that I have been utterly unable to pay my chil-

dren's schooling expenses. Only for this boat business. I would have been able to carry all our necessary expenses and would gladly have done it rather than trust to the good nature of others. I regarded the boat from here to Mobile as one of the most important features in the development of the island and of great importance to Mobile, but I failed to get the support or assistance that I reasonably expected.

Joe, a Cuban government can not govern the Isle of Pines long, if they get it, as the Anglo-Saxon race will not and can not submit to being treated as the Cuban officials treat them. No man's liberty is safe. Just think for a moment of the fact that, no matter how respectable or prominent you are, you are liable to arrest and incarceration at any moment on a charge preferred by the lowest negro or designing white, and you are guilty unless you can prove yourself innocent. And they select and examine the witnesses, while you have no more show than a dog. Spanish law is so pliable that you can convict one man and clear another on the same charge and under the same law and evidence. Americans can not and will not stand it, and yet Cuba has no people nor financial interests here worth mentioning which would entitle it to the enforcement of its antiquated graft-encouraging laws.

Spain deeded this island to a Spaniard and one of his heirs deeded a small lot of land here near Nueva Gerona to the Crown of Spain (not to Cuba), provided they would keep an army guard stationed here to help frighten away the pirates and thus guard Cuba. The alcalde, or governor, here before the Spanish-American war, was an army officer and not a civilian, and the Crown of Spain kept it for political prisoners sent from either Cuba or Porto Rico, because it was too far to send them back to Spain. The land records were kept in a separate book from those at Bajucal, and were only kept there because there were only a few large tracts belonging to old Captain Daurties' heirs and they never changed hands. Evidently they could not afford to pay a man to keep the records here. The same was true of the courts; if any of the dozen or so owners—all of whom were rich Spaniards—should have any litigation, they were allowed to use the Bajucal courts, but the docket was kept separate. It only gave those officers a little more graft, as they charged enormous fees, so much that but little business was done in civil suits, while in criminal and military cases the proceedings were all here under the jurisdiction of the military commander. Few that came before him ever survived to give any account of the trial afterwards. Furthermore, I am told that no one was allowed to visit the island without a special permit from the captain-general of Cuba, and these were closely watched all the time that they remained. The coast line was closely guarded by revenue cutters to see that no one landed or embarked without permission. Every Cuban had a holy horror of this island as a place of torture and death. And the prejudice against the old Spanish régime here still survives all over Cuba.

The Cuban Government permitted a wireless telegraph company to erect a station here and it has been ready for use for two months, but they will only permit them to use it now for government purposes by government officials and their favorites. They refuse to allow us to send any messages.

An American merchant at Colombia has just been brought in and put in jail by five rural guards for refusing to pay the license fees of a shopkeeper. He insisted that the island is American territory and that Cuba's constitution, sovereignty, and laws have no right to be recognized here. I have not the full particulars yet, but I understand he is going to try to make a test of it. I can not see how he can do it, as our Government gives us no recognition or protection whatever. Under orders of Secretary Root to the Cubans we are to be forced to do as they demand and no notice is taken of it by our (the American) representatives in Cuba.

A common Jamaica negro here is promptly protected by the British consul, but Americans are treated like dogs. The day will come when the people of the United States will remember and resent this Isle of Pines sacrifice and persecution perpetrated on some of their most patriotic citizens simply because of their love and reverence for their country. When they are called again to rally around "Old Glory," to defend the Monroe Doctrine, they will say, "Remember not the Maine, but the Isle of Pines, patriots who were sold into bondage to protect Messrs. Root and Wood and the Cuban and American tobacco-trust graft." We have conclusive evidence that certain people high in official authority in the United States, who are in position to prevent the Isles of Pines being recognized as United States territory, are at present holders of interests in large tobacco plantations in Cuba, and we believe in addition to that that these same people are largely interested in the tobacco trusts in a professional

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capacity. These officials will probably resist any plan of extending justice to the Isle of Pines to the bitter end. It is this class of underhand land speculating United States officials who spread the reports in the United States that there are only some speculators interested in the Isle of Pines, but they will be given the lie by the ruined little farmers and their helpless little families begging their way back to their own country, which has been so vilely disgraced by such cattle as the prevaricator who said to the President that he had visited this island, and that it was not worth a tinker's dam, and that they could let Cuba have it and get something worth more for it. This man, you remember, having made such a statement when he visited Washington in November, 1902. It is safe to say that he would get a beautiful coat of tar and feathers if he ever visited this island again.

Joe, you know my treatment here has been very unjust, because I was most zealous in trying to open up and introduce new methods of business and improvements, in which I have already spent thousands of dollars among the people. I have been actually beaten down, arrested, and fined here, over and over again. This has been done often, although I have never committed a single offense against any civilized law. One of the most serious offenses I ever committed was when a rural guard was dragging and pushing my little 15-year old boy down to prison for having refused to go out of a store when a negro ordered him out. At that time, I stepped out of my house and asked the negro what the boy was arrested for. He refused to tell me, and I followed them to the prison to find out. I was then arrested, put under \$25 bond, and next day had to pay \$10 fine for myself, as well as \$10 for the boy. Similar cases have almost been of weekly occurrence for four years, and it has been said when one of my sons was locked up all night without any charge against him, that it was about time, as no Percy had been arrested for two weeks. This state of persecution was kept up on me and my family until a few months ago, when President Palma of Cuba called the alcalde to Habana and told him he would have to let me alone till the treaty was ratified, as his troubles with me had caused them to lose votes in the United States Senate already. Since then he has ceased to persecute me by arrest, but they give me hell by restrictions and confiscations in the custom-house. They have stolen from me at least \$500 worth of merchandise through clerical errors of such a simple nature that the confiscations were no less than highway robbery. To-day I am shut off from my business on our land where I have 100 men cutting poles and timber, because I can not get a Cuban licensed pilot to go out with my little business and pleasure launch. There are only five licensed Cuban citizens here, and they have not the slightest idea of running a steam launch. They only pilot, sponge, and fish with sailing vessels. We know every foot of water and all the keys around this island; in fact, my two sons are the best-informed sailors around here and can handle our boat to perfection. They have to handle it when we get a Cuban, as he can not. Nevertheless we are compelled to have one of these beautiful ornaments aboard, or we can not even go to our work or out for pleasure, and you know there is no other way to our land except by water. Our boat is our buggy, but to-day these five licensed Cubans have formed a collusion against going out on my boats, and I am tied up completely. I do not have any idea why, as I have always paid them well and treated them kindly. I am afraid they are influenced by the officials. Unless they change their notion, I will have to tie up my boats and suspend all business. The men make no excuse, except that they do not want to work. I have not had the slightest hard words or feelings with any of them. We are not allowed to move our little launch 10 feet, or take on water or fuel without getting out a batch of papers that would make a good-sized book. All this must be done on primitive forms, and we have to send to a certain Cuban printing firm in Habana and buy all these forms. Should we run out, we can not use our boat till we get another supply from Habana, as they can not be bought here. They cost from 5 to 10 cents each, and it requires five different kinds of these forms before we can move our little boat, after wasting an hour or two to fill them out. In addition to all this, the blanks must be filled out by a Cuban pilot. Our last man could not read or write, and my son Edward had to make out the papers for him. He was a half-breed negro fisherman and quit his place here because he got stuck up as master of a ship, and therefore declined to be ordered when and where it might be necessary for us to go. It seems to me that someone has been putting them up to taking advantage of our predicament. There will be a very long score to pay here some day, because there are men who will not stand what I and a few others have been enduring, and they are beginning to feel the pressure on them as



they gradually get into business here. I have made up my mind to rest on my oars until there is a change for the better or until I find that Cuban rule is inevitable. I will then be in a position to get out entirely or to continue my business should this island remain American territory. I have an old and strong Cuban friend in Habana, who belongs to the anti-Palma party, who called on me just after our stir up here and wanted to join issues with us, and is now waiting, but I gave him no encouragement, as I have always had hopes that even Senators could not be so wicked and heartless as to sell us into slavery to "the dogs and devildoms" of Cuban-Spanish laws, and although I am discouraged and heartsick over the delay and apparent willingness of some of them to do it that I feel sometimes as if I could take my gun and march out and kill everything that stood between us and freedom, and that I could keep agoing until I was shot down.

Just think! A lot of Americans sold into slavery for what? Because of the love of what they thought to be the freest country in the world.

If Senator Morgan saves us, the people will honor him here as we have always been taught to honor the great George Washington, whose birthday will be celebrated on a grand scale to-morrow, and who, if he could speak, would say "shame on an administration that would dare to uphold such a dirty piece of graft as to refuse to investigate the wrongs of, and to protect even one American citizen, let alone hundreds of them with all their property."

A friend has just come in to tell me that Mr. Moerke, the Columbia merchant and postmaster I spoke of above, has just been convicted to serve fifty days in jail for refusing to pay license fees, and he will probably be sent to Cuba to serve his time out. This gentleman is one of those who took an active part in the territorial convention recently held, and was there elected a member of the legislature. They are singling them all out as fast as possible and getting any hold they can upon them in order to disgrace them under the Cuban law and to run them out of the island if possible. "Every dog has his day."

There is only one American on the island that takes sides against us, and that is a Baptist preacher who, it is understood here, has a questionable record in the States. He has been very unpopular, and therefore decided to run his church so as to catch the Cubans in opposition to the Catholic Church. Thus, he refused to open our meeting with prayer, but instead made a speech against us and was hooted down. So, ever since, he has been opposing us in working underhandedly against the interests of his American brethren. He went out in front of the hotel here the other night where several gentlemen were grouped together in conversation, among them being Mr. Steere, whom he insulted, and during their dispute he said "that the recent convention was composed of a dirty, disreputable lot of traitors and scoundrels." At this I, who had not had a word to say in the argument, got up and hit him. My son "Ed" then jumped on him and beat him up good. Next day we paid \$8 each, which we considered cheap enough. Not one soul will enter his church since he took sides against us, and he is hooted as he passes along the street. Mr. Steere had him arrested for raising a disturbance and insulting him, but he is playing sick and can not attend court. Mr. Steere was fined \$3 for being insulted, although he did not offer any resistance. Edward and I were the only ones who resented it.

All Colombia has just come in to see A. W. Moerke in jail; he will be furnished board from the hotel by his friends; all the people say that they will go to jail before they will pay the Cuban Government any more money. Great excitement and interest is beginning to be taken in our prisoner, Mr. Moerke. The ladies are preparing to take up his supper and some good bedding. They remind me of the time when the boys were being brought in wounded or prisoners during the civil war. These women here are the bravest and most loyal Americans on the island, and if they could swoop down in a body on the Senate that dignified organization would not consider the Cuban or tobacco trust interests any longer, but would insist that the United States kept the island.

The idea of saying the island belongs to the Cubans is so absurd on its face that Mr. Root should be ashamed to let it be known that he was so indifferent or ignorant. Cuba did not belong to the Cubans until we gave it to them May 20, 1902. As you remember, Mr. Hay told us that, and further said that we were not legally bound to turn Cuba over to the Culfans as an independent government, but were only morally bound to do so; and he said that the Isle of Pines was kept out, and the adjustment mentioned in the Platt amendment was simply for the purpose of arbitration as to who would finally get it, which fact our Government and the world already knew. But he also said that there were others (meaning Root) who thought they could trade to Cuba the island, not considering it worth anything. Mr. Hay then advised us to raise a howl and

create public opinion so as to force proper consideration and investigation, or otherwise we would be practically ignored and sold out for a mess of pottage. You will remember that he dictated the petition written in his office, which was signed by us and sent to Congress. It is evident that Mr. Hay was in the same condition as to choice in the matter as was Mr. Squires, former American minister in Habana, just before he resigned. Mr. Squires said to me, "Mr. Percy, you people on the island blame me for making that treaty, designed to turn the Isle of Pines over to Cuba in spite of your protest; but I assure you that I only did as I was commanded to do by my superiors." I replied, "Mr. Squires, some of us believed that all the time."

Joe, look into this Moerke imprisonment case and advise us quickly whether he is not entitled to put in a bill for damages on the ground that Cuba has no legal status here whatever, and therefore the United States should be clearly held for damages for allowing the imprisonment of her citizens by foreign authority in United States territory. Try to get a bill introduced into Congress demanding that Cuba withdraw its de facto government from the Isle of Pines. Joe, I have sent you a number of letters which I am sure you have not received. I do not get half of mine that are sent to me, and those that I do get appear to have been opened in the Cuban mails. We will have to devise some means of getting our letters backward and forward to the United States without having them subjected to inspection and probably opened by the Cuban authorities. The black cabinet for spying into the correspondence of private citizens and officials, which is so abhorred in European countries, seems to be worked in Cuba to the limit.

From your brother,

S. H. PERCY.

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NO CUBAN RULE FOR THEM—AMERICANS REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO ANY, KIND OF CUBAN RULE IN TERRITORY BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES.

The following letter, supplementary to others already published, shows the actual condition of public sentiment in the Isle of Pines against any kind of Cuban rule in territory ceded to the United States. American citizens ought to have some rights that even the Root régime ought to respect.

This letter speaks for itself:

NUEVA, GERONA, ISLE OF PINES, *February 26, 1906.*

DEAR BROTHER JOE (Capt. J. L. Percy): I am so busy I can write but a short note to-night, as it is now 11 o'clock and I have to send it by hand down to the boat.

We are to have a grand mass meeting here day after to-morrow to decide what we will do about the Moerke case (the postmaster jailed for nonpayment of license fees). He is still in jail. We may propose a truce with the alcalde until our case is settled by paying all money to be held subject to the determination of whom it belongs to, provided they take their rural guards away and we guarantee to keep the peace until Congress decides our fate. If he refuses I do not know what the next move will be, but these people will send canvassers to the United States to secure help if something is not done to release the strain. Senator Morgan's report has made them sure of what they always knew, that Cuba has no right here. They will never peaceably submit to Cuban rule, but they are going to move cautiously and be sure of their game when they begin. S. H. Percy used to be the kicker, but I am now laid clear in the shade. Is there no way by which an act or resolution could be hurried through both Houses to get a military officer sent here to take charge until all is settled? Cuba can not have this island without a war, and it will not be this crowd alone who will be in line against the Cubans. Thousands of offers are coming in for help. One of the head leaders of the anti-Palma party in Cuba came to me and offered the support of their party whenever we wanted it. I told him we would not need it, as I was sure our own Government would be advised of the great fraud before it was too late. He said the Isle of Pines never did and should not belong to Cuba.

Get some Congressman to offer a bill to instruct the War Department to send an officer here at once to take charge, and all these guards can go home. The alcalde is now claiming that he is sole commander here by appointment of the United States Government, as their military representative. Think of a half-

breed, ignorant man like him being selected to govern a lot of intelligent Anglo-Saxons and collect taxes levied by the New Cuban Congress to pay the so-called Cuban soldiers and for the keeping of 30 or 40 of these beautiful negro thieves here to do it by force, and they going out every day, 5 to 10 at a time, to bring in respectable American gentlemen, and to take wagons and break into their houses and haul in the last stick of furniture, leaving the wife and five little children without a home and penniless. This is the case of Mr. Moerke, above alluded to, because he would not pay \$20 for three months' privilege license to keep a little store when he only had about 20 or 30 customers and carried about \$100 worth of stock, selling about \$25 to \$30 worth of goods per month. He kept the post-office because there was not a single native in Cuba living in that quarter of the Island, and they had promised to pay him \$5 per month. Nevertheless, they had not paid him a cent in eight months.

Speaking about the Cubans here, I notice all sorts of reports as to their number. I will give \$50 each for every 1 over 1,000 Cubans in the island if they will give me \$5 each for every 1 under 1,000 Cubans at present here. Americans and natives are nearly equal, but there are more American men than there are natives, but more native children, by a great deal, than Americans. Three hundred out of 330 Cubans, living on the land we bought, have moved to Cuba since we bought it four and a half years ago, and 18 of those left are going to Cuba when their lease is out, August 1 next; they have already rented land there and shipped some of their stock, etc. Half of the Spanish refugees who flocked here for protection during the blockade, remaining here when our Government took the census, left in less than twelve months afterwards for their homes in Cuba, when they had gotten over their scare. Joe, I could write all night about the unjust representations made about this island and the injustice done to the people here, but I will have to close.

Your brother,

SAM.

(Capt. S. H. Percy.)

#### AGAINST THE ISLE OF PINES TREATY AMENDMENTS.

*To the honorable presiding officers and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:*

GENTLEMEN: It has come to my knowledge that representations are being made from Cuban sources to the effect that there is comparatively a small number of American property owners on the Isle of Pines who have their titles to land recorded according to the old Spanish laws now in vogue in that island under its present alleged *de facto* laws now in vogue in that island under its present alleged *de facto* Cuban Government. This allegation, even if it be true, would be of comparatively little importance, because it in no wise indicates how many Americans have bona fide holdings of real estate in the island for which they paid their cash.

Few Americans are willing to pay exorbitant sums to have their land titles recorded under the old Spanish system. They believe, under American law, that contracts for deeds, or other unrecorded instruments conveying title, would serve as ample security until such time as the prevailing laws under American authority could be brought to some degree of simplicity and the fees for recording titles could be reduced to figures somewhere near commensurate to the services rendered.

It costs the people of the Isle of Pines from \$30 to \$50 to record an ordinary real-estate title under the present laws in force. In the United States warranty deeds could be recorded for two or three dollars, conveying a guaranteed title. It costs hundreds of dollars to record some deeds under Cuban laws, and there are instances where, in small holdings it would cost more to record the deed than to purchase the property.



We can produce the names of at least 2,000 American citizens who own property in the Isle of Pines.

We challenge anyone to produce the names of 100 actual Cuban citizens who now own property on the Isle of Pines, no matter what the Cuban official record of deeds may apparently show.

Proportionately nine-tenths of the real estate of the island is owned by American citizens.

This comparatively large purchase of property was due to the assurances of officials of the War Department that the Isle of Pines would be retained under American jurisdiction. These assurances were made often and to many people, who either had purchased or were intending to purchase real estate in the island. I would venture the assertion that without such assurance not a dozen of the Americans now living there could have been induced to give up their homes in the States and go to the Isle of Pines, even as prospectors under salary, much less take the risk of investing in property which they knew would be subject to Cuban jurisdiction.

It is quite generally understood now that argument is being advanced to the effect that the Isle of Pines should be ceded to Cuba by the pending treaty so amended by provisions and safeguards that American interests would be protected on the island. I desire, as the chosen representative of the American citizens on the Isle of Pines, to enter my most earnest and emphatic protest against any such plan.

As I understand the scheme proposed by Cubans, it includes the administration of the island as a colony of Cuba after its cession to Cuba in the pending treaty, on the part of the United States. Such a plan would be an utter failure and would operate to "freeze out" pretty nearly all the American property holders on the island.

We could not have anything to say whatever about our government, as a colony of Cuba or as a part of Cuba, unless we renounce our American citizenship, which very few, if any of us, would be willing to do. We could not vote without first swearing allegiance to Cuba. We would then be subject entirely to the caprice of Cuban officials. Our experiences during the past three years with them, in spite of the fact that they did not have any right under constitutional law to rule over us, have been such as to prove to us, beyond even a reasonable doubt, that we would be subjected to all sorts of devices and schemes for the extortion of money, some or all of which might never be remitted to either the insular or the Cuban treasury, and which certainly would not be expended for the improvement or benefit of the island, should we pass irrevocably under Cuban rule. We believe that it would be a grafting government, pure and simple, run to enrich a few Cuban officials, while we, as aliens, could neither vote nor hold office or trust, but would be easy plucking for those in authority over us.

Then under these conditions what avail would be our appeals to the United States for protection under a treaty with its so-called "safeguards?" Probably nil. We would have no means to reach the ears of what might be perhaps a hostile American Executive and no official way of appealing to the American people or to Congress.

We would be tender lambs, indeed, abandoned to the mercies of the wolf.

We would be without friends and without even a country.

It is no small responsibility for the Senate of the United States to take such a stand, namely, to deprive the American citizens on the



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Isle of Pines of their birthrights of citizenship, their property, and their homes and force them to live as aliens under a foreign flag. We protest most vigorously against any such a procedure:

First. Because we had assurances from the War Department, from General Wood and his subordinates, from statements made by former Secretary Hay, from steps taken by the Interior Department to include the Isle of Pines in American territory by direction of President McKinley, and from the procedure of the Treasury in collecting full customs on goods shipped from the Isle of Pines to the United States under the Dingley law, whereas if we were regarded as a part of Cuba we would have the tariff reductions provided in the reciprocity treaty with Cuba.

Second. Because we believe that both Houses of Congress, as well as the citizens of the United States in this country and in the Isle of Pines, ought to pass upon such a momentous question as the cession of American territory to a foreign jurisdiction, even under the most stringent safeguards and regulations which a treaty could provide.

Third. Because we have plainly indicated that we do not believe the Cubans, under any form of treaty whatsoever, bound around with restrictions and reservations in whatever way the most skillful lawyers might devise, could be restricted and obliged to administer a government for the best interests of American citizens living in the Isle of Pines, or for the best interests of the Cuban Government itself.

Here is an instance with regard to the enforcement of certain Cuban laws. It is unlawful to allow cattle to run at large on the Isle of Pines. There was an American there who had his young orange trees destroyed by cattle breaking through his fence. He corralled the cattle and filed a claim for damages. The alcalde then appointed his private secretary and the owner of the cattle to appraise the damages. The following day the claimant was notified to appear and was told by the judge never to enter the court with a complaint of this kind again. The case was dismissed. I was an eyewitness to this affair, and I would not accept \$100 and bear the damages inflicted on those orange trees.

This is one of hundreds of affairs of this kind.

The less said about Cuban courts the better.

At the present time there are more American property owners in the Isle of Pines than there are in Porto Rico.

Again, may we plead with the honorable members of the United States Senate not to ratify a treaty depriving their fellow-citizens of that which righteously and honestly belongs to them.

There are hundreds of American citizens who have invested their savings of the past fifteen or twenty years in their homes on the island, who, by the ratification of the pending treaty, would virtually be stripped of all their earthly possessions, no matter what amending safeguards may be exacted by the Government of the United States.

We who have had abundant experience fear to trust ourselves to the authority of Spanish and Cuban laws, as they would be interpreted by the Cuban courts and administered by the Cuban executive officials stationed in the Isle of Pines should the pending treaty be ratified.

EDWARD P. RYAN,

*Delegate from the Isle of Pines.*



